



# Diagnostic Center, Central CA

## *Excellence in Special Education*

Fall, 2005

### Diagnostic Center Sentinel: Linking You with DCC Services

The Diagnostic Center, Central California is pleased to send you the second issue of the DCC Sentinel. The Sentinel will provide an update on DCC projects and services to better serve you in achieving high educational outcomes for all students. Issues will feature hot topics, key resources and techniques, research information and diagnostic issues. Comments and suggestions are welcomed by contacting [cbence@dcc-cde.ca.gov](mailto:cbence@dcc-cde.ca.gov).

### What is the DCC?

Most of you are familiar with our services to SELPAs and Districts in the following counties in Central California: Fresno, Tulare, Kings, Kern, San Luis Obispo, Madera, Mariposa, Merced, Modesto, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Calaveras, San Joaquin and Amador.

We continue to provide:

- Comprehensive, state-of-the-art assessment and educational planning services to assist school districts in meeting the needs of their most complex, challenging students with special education needs.
- Technical assistance and consultation in program and instructional design and delivery.
- Professional development opportunities for teachers, administrators, special education staff, families and service agency personnel.
- Focused on-site projects linking training and classroom implementation.

### Can We Help?

As you are preparing an application for assessment services, why not contact an administrator for assistance in developing your diagnostic questions? A pre-referral discussion often speeds up the process, ensuring that the district's questions are appropriate and all required documents are identified.

**While there are no costs for DCC services, requests must be generated by local school districts.** Please use our "new" Application for Assessment Services forms revised on 6-05. Complete applications with revised HIPAA forms accelerate the process!

**To request copies by postal or electronic mail, please contact:**  
**Melissa Woodley @**  
**559-243-4047 or**  
[mwoodley@dcc-cde.ca.gov](mailto:mwoodley@dcc-cde.ca.gov)

**Visit our website for more information.**

[Http://www.dcc-cde.ca.gov](http://www.dcc-cde.ca.gov)

**New Phone: 559-243-4047**

DCC  
SENTINEL

## Focus Group Study on Assessment Reports

The three California Diagnostic Centers conducted a two-year research project involving focus group methodology to determine what characteristics (content and structure) make Diagnostic Center reports more useful to teachers. Focus groups were composed of teachers representing special education (SDC and RSP) and general education. Although the sample was small, the “Big Ideas” were consistent throughout the State: Thank you to the participating teachers!

- ♦ **Practicality, Do-Ability:** Teachers want practical, useful suggestions, specific with enough detail so that they can be implemented with a minimum of support.
- ♦ **Big Picture:** Teachers highly value the comprehensiveness and depth of the reports. They want information that helps them understand the student and leads to helpful action.
- ♦ **Clarity:** Teachers showed a strong preference for clear language—vocabulary and concepts that are readily understood. Visuals, such as charts, are very useful.
- ♦ **Respect:** Teachers want to be respected professionally and included in the assessment process.
- ♦ **Support Options:** Teachers value opportunities to request observations and consultations on-site or by phone contact after the assessment to follow-up on recommended strategies and interventions.

## Meet the Doctor: Hot Topics in Medicine Dr. Desiree Rodgers, Behavioral & Developmental Pediatrician



November 20, 2005	Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
January 12, 2006	Developmental Delay
March 9, 2006	Epilepsy/Seizure Disorder and Anticonvulsant Medications

To Register contact Carole Bence @ [cbence@dcc-cde.ca.gov](mailto:cbence@dcc-cde.ca.gov)  
Or call 559-228-2213

Place:  
Diagnostic Center

Time:  
4:00-5:30 PM

Cost: FREE

## Effective Reading Intervention Academy: ERIA

The Diagnostic Center, Central, supported by a grant from CalSTAT, will be working with 10 schools throughout the Central Valley. Schools will each receive a stipend of \$1500 to attend a two-day training by Dr. Kevin Feldman on November 21st and 22nd, 2005. Following the workshop, DCC Educational Specialist, Jane Ketcham will provide on-site consultation and support to staff regarding program implementation, progress monitoring and evaluation. Students targeted for this project are in grades fourth to sixth. The focus involved research-based strategies to improve the reading skills of struggling readers!

For more information, contact Jane Ketcham—[jketcham@dcc-cde.ca.gov](mailto:jketcham@dcc-cde.ca.gov) or Carole Bence as listed above.



Check the Web for a listing of  
scheduled trainings!  
[www.dcc-cde.ca.gov](http://www.dcc-cde.ca.gov)

### Director's Corner



My staff and I welcome the opportunity to present an overview of our services to personnel who routinely complete referral applications in your district. Please contact Susan Bobbitt to schedule a presentation @ 559-243-4049.